

19
RULES AND ORDERS

E S T A B L I S H E D

F O R T H E

RELIEF and GOVERNMENT

O F T H E

P O O R

O F T H E

PARISH OF WALTHAMSTOW,

I N T H E

C O U N T Y O F E S S E X.

W I T H

ABSTRACTS from the several ACTS of PARLIAMENT relative to the Relief of the Poor, on which they are founded.

To which is added,

The DUTIES of the VESTRY-CLERK and the BEADLE:

A L S O

An Account of the BENEFACTIONS to the Parish of *Walthamstow*; the Time they were given, and several Appropriations; with the Annual Produce.

M.DCC.LXXX.



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RULES AND ORDERS, &c.

For the RELIEF of the POOR.

IT IS ENACTED,

BY *the 43^d of Eliz. ch. 2^d.* The Churchwardens and Overseers, with the consent of two Justices, (1 Q.) shall take order from time to time, for setting to work the children of all such whose parents shall not by the said Churchwardens and Overseers, or the greater part of them, be thought able to keep and maintain their children; and for setting to work all such persons, married or unmarried, having no means to maintain them, and using no ordinary and daily trade; and for the necessary relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such other among them being poor, and not able to work. S. 1. And the said Justices, or one of them, shall send to the house of correction, or common gaol, such as shall not employ themselves to work, being appointed thereunto as aforesaid. S. 4.

By the 9th of Geo. ch. 7th. It shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers, in any parish, township, or place, with the consent of the major part of the Parishioners or Inhabitants, in Vestry, or other public meeting for that purpose assembled, or of so many of them as shall be so assembled, upon usual notice thereof first given, to purchase or hire any house or houses, in the same parish, township, or place, and to contract with any person or persons for the lodging, keeping, maintaining, and employing any or all such Poor in their respective parishes, townships, or places, as shall desire to receive relief or collection, and there to keep, maintain, and employ all such poor persons, and take the benefit of the work, labour, and services of any such poor persons, who shall be kept or maintained in any such house or houses, for the better maintenance and relief of such poor persons, who shall be kept and maintained. And if any poor person shall refuse to be lodged, kept, or maintained in such house or houses, he shall be put out of the Parish-book, and shall not be intitled to receive relief from the Churchwardens and Overseers. S. 4.

By the 3d of Wm. ch. 2d. There shall be provided and kept in every Parish, a book, wherein the names of all persons who receive collection shall be registered, with the day and year when they were first admitted to have relief, and the occasion which brought them under that necessity; and yearly in Easter week, or as often as shall be thought convenient, the Parishioners shall meet in the Vestry, or other usual place of meeting in the Parish, before whom the book shall be produced, and all persons receiving collection to be called over, and the reasons of their taking relief examined, and a new list made and entered of such persons as they shall think fit, and allow to receive collection.

collection. AND NO OTHER PERSON shall be allowed to receive collection at the charge of the Parish, but by Authority, under the hand of one Justice residing within such Parish, or (if none be there dwelling) in the parts near or next adjoining, or by order of the Justices in Sessions, except in cases of Pestilential Diseases, Plague, or Small-pox, for such families only as shall be therewith infected. S. 11.

By the 9th Geo. ch. 7th. No Justice shall order relief to any poor person, until oath be made before him of some matter, which he shall judge to be a reasonable cause for having such relief; and that the same person had by himself, or some other, applied for relief to the Parishioners, at some Vestry or other public meeting, or two of the Overseers, and was by them refused to be relieved; and until such Justice hath summoned two of the Overseers to shew cause why such relief should not be given, and the person so summoned hath been heard, or made default to appear. And the person whom such Justice shall think fit to be ordered to be relieved shall be entered in such book, as one of those who is to receive collection, as long as the cause for such relief continues, and no longer. And no officer shall (except upon sudden and emergent occasions) bring to the account of the Parish, any money he shall give to any poor person who is not registered in such book, as a person intitled to receive collection, on pain of Five Pounds by distress, by warrant of two Justices; who shall have examined into and found him guilty of such offence; which said sum shall be applied to the use of the Poor by direction of the Justices. S. 1 and 2.

By the 8th and 9th of Wm. ch. 30th. MOREOVER, every such person as shall be upon the collection, and receive relief of any parish or place, and the

wife and children of any such person cohabiting in the same house (such child only excepted, as shall be by the Churchwardens and Overseers permitted to live at home, in order to attend an impotent or helpless parent) shall upon the shoulder of the right sleeve of the uppermost garment, in an open and visible manner, wear a large Roman P, together with the first letter of the name of the Parish or place, whereof such poor person is an inhabitant, cut either in red or blue cloth, as by the Churchwardens and Overseers shall be directed: And if any such poor person shall neglect or refuse to wear any such badge or mark, it shall be lawful for one Justice to punish such offender, either by ordering his allowance to be abridged, suspended, or withdrawn, or otherwise, by committing him to the house of correction, to be whipt and kept to hard labour, not exceeding 21 days; and if any Churchwarden or Overseer shall relieve any such poor person, not wearing such badge, and he be thereof convicted on oath of one witness, before a Justice, he shall forfeit 20 Shillings by distress, half to the informer, and half to the poor. S. 2.

By the 24th, Geo. 2d, ch. 40th. No spirituous liquors shall be sold or used in any workhouse or house of entertainment for Parish Poor.

By the 2d of Geo. 3d, ch. 20th. If any MILITIA-MAN, who shall have been chosen by lot, shall, when embodied and called out into actual service, and ordered to march, leave a family unable to support themselves, the Overseers of the place where such family shall dwell, shall, by the order of one Justice, out of the Poor-rates of such place, pay to such family a weekly allowance, according to the usual price of husbandry there, as followeth: For one child under ten years of
3
age

age, the price of one day's work; for two such children, not exceeding the price of two days; for three or four such children, not exceeding three days; and for five or more such children, under the age of ten years, not exceeding four days; and for the wife, not exceeding one day's work; and the same shall be forthwith reimbursed to such Overseer, by the Treasurer of the county.

By the 19th of Geo. 3d, ch. 22d. The families of SUBSTITUTES, Hired Men, or Volunteers, serving in the Militia, are to be relieved by the same proportion, by order of one Justice, who, at the time of ordering relief, is to make an order for the Overseers of the Parish for which he shall serve, to reimburse the Overseers who shall advance the same, if in the same county.—If not in the same county, the Overseers are to be reimbursed by the Treasurer of the County for which such Substitute serves, by a certificate from the Justice who ordered such relief.—And no such allowance to the families of Militia-men or Substitutes is to affect their rights of voting, or their settlements, nor are their families to be compelled to reside or lodge in any workhouse or poorhouse.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.

At a Vestry holden the 27th day of November, 1779.

IT APPEARED,

THAT notwithstanding the laws above recited, and the instructions given by the Justices to every Overseer with his warrant, and the number of Poor kept in the workhouse, and also contrary to several orders of Vestry ; that within a few years past, a Pension List was arisen, and then weekly paid, to the amount of six pounds and upwards, for every week ; and that without any one order from a Justice of the Peace, to the very great burden and hardship of the industrious part of the inhabitants.

It was therefore RESOLVED and ORDERED,

That no person be admitted on the Pension List, or be relieved at any place out of the parish, except such persons as may be insane, have the small-pox, or other infectious disorder, and nurse children under three years of age ; but that such poor persons as want other than immediate relief (upon sudden and emergent occasions) are to be admitted into the workhouse, which if they refuse, they are not to be relieved by the Overseer at the Parish charge, but directed to the senior Churchwarden, who will, if proper, relieve them on the charitable benefactions account.

That

That such aged, diseased, or distressed persons, as may be for the present continued on the Pension List, be not allowed more than two shillings and sixpence per week for a grown person, and one shilling and sixpence for a child with its mother.

That whatever officer in future acts contrary to the foregoing Laws and Rules, do bear all such expences as may be incurred thereby, at his own cost and charge.

See Act the 9th Geo. 2d. ch. 7th.

That for the information of future Officers and the Poor, fair copies of these Resolutions and Orders be fixed in the Vestry-room and Lobby thereto.

At the Annual Vestry, held for the choice of Officers, and other Parish Business, on Easter Monday, the 26th of March, 1780.

RESOLVED,

That from and after Midsummer-day, 1780, the poor in the workhouse be no longer farmed, but maintained under the care of a Governor and Governess, who shall be under the immediate inspection of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor for the time being; to which purpose they are desired to contract, from time to time, with such persons as will supply the poor with the different articles wanted, at the
2
most

most reasonable rates; and to take such other steps for the compleating this good design as may be necessary.

In pursuance of the above Resolution, at a meeting of the Officers, April 8, 1780.

P R E S E N T,

Rev. EDWARD CONYERS, Vicar,

JOEL JOHNSON, Churchwarden.

MICHAEL FOSTER,
WILLIAM GREENWOOD, } Overseers.

The Churchwarden proposed the following
R U L E S.

RULES

RULES *for the* GOVERNMENT
of the POOR, *in the* Work-house of
the Parish of Walthamstow.

The Duty of the Governor and Governess.

1. **T**HE persons to whom the care of the Poor shall be intrusted, to be a man and his wife; sober, discreet, and diligent, experienced in household management, capable of governing the Poor with humanity to them, and œconomy for the Parish; they are to follow no other employment, business, or interest, but that of the Parish, and give security for the trust that may be reposed in them, and for the faithful discharge of their duty, if required.

2. Every thing, the Parish property in the workhouse, to be delivered over to the Governor by an inventory signed by the officers, and the party intrusted, and are by him to be accounted for whenever called upon by the Officers for the time being, or the major part of them.

3. That the Governor to be appointed, be able to write a plain legible hand, and keep an account of the name, age, sex, time of reception, death or discharge of every person who shall be admitted into the house, in a book to be provided for that purpose, and in such form and manner as he shall be directed by the Officers.

4. That

4. That he admit no person into the house for relief, without an order signed by the Churchwarden, or Overseer of the Poor for the time being, or discharge any from the house without such order.

5. That he keep a regular and fair daily account of all provisions, stores, cloaths, goods, materials, tools, or other things that shall be received into the house, and of all work done therein, in such form as he shall be directed.

6. He is to give an account in writing, once in every week, to the Overseers, of every thing that he may foresee will be wanting in the house, a week or more before it is wanted.

7. He is strictly to examine all goods and provisions received, and make a faithful and due complaint to the officers of all deficiencies in quality, weight, or other defects, in whatever may be contracted for, immediately on the discovery thereof, that they may see the same redressed.

8. He is to suffer no embezzlement or waste of goods, materials, cloaths, or provisions, to the best of his abilities, but give immediate notice thereof to the Churchwardens or Overseers.

9. He is not to deliver out of the house any work, materials, tools or provisions, or any other matter, without an order in writing, sign'd by the Churchwardens and Overseers, or the major part of them.

10. In the absence of the Churchwardens and Overseers, he is to preside over every person in the workhouse as master of the family, with the greatest care and humanity to the sick, lame, impotent persons, children and others committed to his care.

11. He

11. He is to cause the sick to follow the directions of the Parish Surgeon and Apothecary, to whom he is, on any disorder appearing on any of the Poor under his care, immediately to apply; and also, if necessary, to acquaint the officers thereof, that in case of necessity they may be recommended to proper hospitals.

12. He is to task, and keep diligently at work, all such persons as are able, proper regard being had to Sex, Age, and Strength, in such business and employment, and during such hours, as shall be set forth in a table of regulations for the poor in the said workhouse.

13. He is to suffer no spirituous liquors to be at any time brought into the house on any account whatever, without licence or order from the Apothecary, as necessary for any particular person.

14. He is to suffer no Pauper to go without-side the yard or garden gates, on any account whatever, unless with the leave of an officer in writing, and when they may at times of necessity be hired out to assist the farmers at hay time or harvest, at such prices as shall be fixed by the Officers.

15. He is to take care that the person or persons who may be occasionally appointed to read to the Poor, or teach the Children to read or to work, perform their duty in manner as shall be set forth in the table of regulations before-named.

16. He is to suffer no persons to visit the poor in the house on the Lord's day, without a note in writing from one of the Churchwardens or Overseers.

17. He is to take especial care that every person in health, men, women, and children above
four

four years old, except such only as are necessary to attend the sick, do constantly attend divine service in the church on every Sunday morning and afternoon, and on all holydays, clean washed and dressed, and decently seated, a quarter of an hour before prayers are to begin, and stay in their seats till the congregation is departed.

18. The Governor or Governess are at all times to walk with the poor to and from the church, causing also occasionally the person who is to assist in teaching the children, to assist in superintending the behaviour of the Poor to, at, and from the church.

19. He is not to suffer any part of the parish uniform clothing to be given unto, or carried away by, any Pauper who shall be discharged the house, on any account whatever.

20. He is, from time to time, to give a faithful account to the Churchwardens and Overseers, of the behaviour of all the Poor under his care, that those who behave well may be rewarded, and that those who behave ill may be punished by the Magistrate.

21. If the Governor and Governess faithfully and diligently perform the duties of their offices, according to the foregoing rules, and the table of regulations for the conduct of the Poor, he is to be paid by the Overseers, for the time being, Pounds a Year in the whole, for himself and his wife, in four equal quarterly payments, on the usual quarter days, as the same shall become due.

RULES and ORDERS

To be observed and obeyed by every Pauper who shall be admitted into the House.

1. **A**T the admittance into the house, he or she shall, if necessary, be stripped and washed clean, and be examined by the Surgeon and Apothecary, to see that they are not afflicted with any infectious disease; and whenever such disorder shall be suspected, they are to be kept alone till he shall report their health and fitness for society.

2. The apparel of such as shall be admitted, is to be aired and cleaned, and, if proper, ticketed and laid by for their use, when discharged the house; and any that may be infected with vermin, or supposed to be so, are to be put in a bag, laid on an iron frame, and baked in an oven, properly heated, till the vermin are destroyed, or infection removed, before they are so laid by.

3. On the Apothecary's report of health, the Pauper is to be cloathed in the uniform of the house.

4. The uniform cloathing for each Man and Boy to be,

Two coats and two waistcoats, made of good Yorkshire plains.

Two pair of Russia drab breeches; one of each to be kept clean for Sundays.

Three shirts, three neckcloths, and three handkerchiefs.

Three pair of stockings, and two night caps.

Two pair of shoes, one hat.

The antient men to have a great coat if needful.

5. For

5. For the Women and Girls, each to have,
Two gowns, and two petticoats of linzey, of the
same drab colour with the mens and boys
cloaths.

One pair leather bodice, one baize petticoat.
Three shifts, three day caps, and three night caps.
Three coloured aprons, and one white ditto.
Three coloured handkerchiefs, and one white
ditto.

Two pair of shoes, two pockets, one hat.

The Aged to have a cloak, the same colour of
the gown, if necessary.

6. The uniform of every Pauper to be num-
bered, and also marked, as the Laws direct; to be
laid by in a proper place, when out of use, and de-
livered out when wanted, by the Governor and
Governess of the house.

7. The beds in the house to be made proper
for every person, above fourteen years of age, to
sleep separate.

8. A proper place to be appointed for the
reception of every person who may be supposed
affected with any contagious disorder.

9. A room to be appointed for sick men and
boys, and another for sick women and girls.

10. From Lady-day to Michaelmas-day, every
person in health, and able, is to rise at half past
five, and appear clean washed, combed, and
drest, at Six o'clock, in a room appointed, where
the Governor, or the person who may be ap-
pointed to teach the children to read, shall read
the Psalms, Epistle and Gospel for the day, or
such other lessons, and such prayers as he shall be
directed by the Minister; after which every one
shall immediately go to their proper employment
till eight o'clock, when all shall breakfast, for
which

which half an hour shall be allowed, and then all shall diligently work till twelve, when all shall dine; and at one return to work till six; when a chapter, and such evening prayers, as shall be appointed by the Minister, shall be read; and from thence till supper shall be allowed for recreation, their friends may visit them, or they may otherwise usefully employ themselves till eight, when all shall sup, and at nine be in bed. No Pauper shall, on any pretence, go without-side the yard gate, without leave from the Governor; and if any person presume to lie out of the house one night, they are not to be admitted again without an order from the majority of the officers.

11. From Michaelmas to Lady-day the hour to rise to be Seven, breakfast at Nine, dine at Twelve, leave work at Five, sup at Seven, and be in bed at Eight; the intermediate time to be employed as before, and from prayer-time in the morning till breakfast, and after three in the afternoon, all the children, boys and girls, shall be instructed in reading, and in the first principles of the Christian religion, and all such as are able, in the other parts of the day, shall be taught and made to work.

12. Proper books for learning the children to read, Bibles, Testaments, and Prayer-books, will be provided by the Officers, for the use of the house, and whoever shall abuse them will be punished.

13. On Every Lord's day, and at all such other times as the Minister shall direct, the poor children shall attend, and be catechised, as he shall see convenient.

14. The Diet of the Poor to be,
 Bread made of second flour.
 Beer brewed of good malt, run as near as may
 be, to two hundred gallons from one quarter
 of malt.
 Beef—mouse buttocks, clods, and stickings, and
 tops of ribs
 Mutton—legs and breasts.

Sundays.

Breakfast—bread and cheese, or butter
 Dinner—meat, puddings and vegetables
 Supper—bread and cheese or spoon-meat

Mondays.

Breakfast—milk-pottage, or broth
 Dinner—puddings or dumplings
 Supper—bread and cheese or spoon-meat

Tuesdays.

Breakfast—milk-pottage
 Dinner—meat and vegetables
 Supper—Bread and cheese or spoon-meat

Wednesdays.

Breakfast—milk-pottage, or broth
 Dinner—soup, or milk thickened with rice or
 flour
 Supper—bread, cheese, and butter, or spoon meat

Thursdays.

Breakfast—milk-pottage
 Dinner—meat and vegetables
 Supper—bread and cheese and butter, or spoon-
 meat

Fridays.

Breakfast—milk-pottage, or broth
 Dinner—peas-soup
 Supper—bread and cheese or butter, or spoon-
 meat

Saturdays.

Saturdays.

Breakfast—milk-pottage

Dinner—cold meat, potatoes, or soup

Supper—bread and cheese or butter, or spoon-meat.

15. EMPLOYMENT.

That of the Men and Boys, shall be in cultivating the garden for the use of the house, picking oakum, spinning hemp or flax, and such other business as the Officers, with the consent and approbation of the Justices, shall, from time to time, appoint.

That of the Women and Girls, in spinning jersey, flax, hemp, yarn for stockings, and knitting the same for the use of the house; making, mending and washing the linen, cleaning the house, and such other business as shall be directed as aforesaid.

16. To all which the poor shall be made diligently to apply themselves, under pain of the severest penalties, to be inflicted by the Laws, in case of disobedience; and they are not to use any abusive, obscene, or bad language among themselves, or to any other person whatever, but to behave orderly, not quarrel, but respect one another, reverence their Benefactors and Governors, and wherein they may think themselves aggrieved, are to submit their complaints to the Churchwardens and Overseers, for the time being, who will patiently hear, and with pleasure redress, any real grievance.

ANTHONY TODD, Esq; of Walthamstow,
PEREGRINE BERTIE, Esq; of Leyton, and
SAMUEL BOSANQUET, Esq; of Ditto,

Having seen, consented to, and recommended the foregoing Rules and Regulations to be put in Execution;

At a Public Vestry held on the 27th day
of June, 1780:

P R E S E N T,

The Rev. EDWARD CONYERS, Vicar,

JOEL JOHNSON, } Churchwardens,
JAMES HOWARD, }

MICHAEL FOSTER, } Overseers.
WILLIAM GREENWOOD, }

PEREGRINE BERTIE, Esq;

JOHN RIGG, Esq;

JOHN FREE, Esq;

THOMAS FLETCHER, Esq;

THOMAS SIMS, Esq;

JOSEPH EYRE, Esq;

STRACEY TILL, Esq;

JOHN HAFLEY, Esq;

EDWARD PICKARD, Esq;

Mr. DAVID BEAN,

PAUL LIGHTWOOD,

JOSEPH DAVIS,

JOHN COE,

THOMAS WATKINS,

RICHARD BANKS,

THOMAS FLACK,

The whole was approved, confirmed, and established unanimously. And,

In order to make the same more useful and permanent, the following Gentlemen were appointed a Committee, to assist the Officers in the repairs, furniture, cloathing, &c. and to visit the house occasionally, to see that the Rules and Regulations are duly observed.

The Rev. Mr. CONYERS, or his Curate.
 ANTHONY TODD, Esq;
 JOHN RIGG, Esq;
 THOMAS SIMS, Esq;
 JOSEPH EYRE, Esq;
 JAMES NEAVE, Esq;
 EDWARD PICKARD, Esq;
 JOHN HAFLEY, Esq;

The Office and Duty of the Clerk of the Vestry.

HE is to attend all Vestrys, and to act as Register or Secretary thereto and therein.

His business is to make clear and distinct minutes of all its acts, enter them fairly in the minute-book, and to see them regularly signed by such of the inhabitants as shall be then and thereto consenting.

To draw up and copy all orders, votes, motions, and other acts of the Vestry, and to give out fair copies thereof, when ordered by the Vestry, or Churchwardens, but not otherwise.

He is to make all rate books, and attend the signing thereof by the officers and inhabitants, and by his Majesty's Justices of the Peace; to have the care and custody (under the Churchwardens) of the Parish writings, books and papers, and duly enter in the books the accounts of the Officers, after their being approved; and
 keep

keep all other the parish-accounts in a fair hand-writing, and in such form and manner as the Vestry shall direct.

He is to collect all rents and rates whatever due and payable to the Churchwardens, and to the Overseers of the poor, and immediately to pay the same into the hands of the Officer for whose use it is received; and to give security for the trust reposed in him, as well for his care of the writings and books, as for the monies by him to be received, if required, by the Vestry or Churchwardens.

He is to have no vote, or use any manner of influence, or otherwise interfere in parish affairs, but as in his office required.

The Duty of the Beadle.

HE is constantly to attend the Vestrys, and diligently to execute all orders received therefrom; and he is to give notice in writing, at the residence (within the parish) of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor, and of all such of the inhabitants who have either served or paid the usual fine to be excused serving the office of Churchwarden, specifying the place where, and time when, such Vestry is to be holden, notwithstanding the same notice may be given in the Church.

He is constantly to attend on Sundays, during divine service, to prevent boys from playing in the church-yard, or other disorderly matters;—to be aiding and assisting the constable in taking up beggars, and other disorderly persons, at all times; to execute the orders of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor, for the time being, in aiding and assisting the constable to secure such persons

persons as by the said Churchwardens and Overseers may be thought within the meaning of the present, or any future act of parliament, for the better or more speedily recruiting his Majesty's forces.

He is to attend to, and procure the passing of Vagrants and Paupers, not legally settled in the parish; and diligently to search out for, and produce to the Vestry, or to the Overseers of the Poor, once within every quarter of a year at least, a true list of all persons suspected of keeping disorderly houses; of all who receive inmates, with the names of such inmates, and of all such persons as do, or shall come to reside in any cottage within the parish, not having a certificate from their legal place of settlement; and he is to do every matter and thing that is within his power, and can be reasonably required of him, as the servant and messenger of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the time being.

